

REMARKS

Claims 21-33 have been canceled without prejudice and replaced by new claims 34-44, which are currently pending. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

First, claims 23 and 28-33 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering the Section 112 rejections of these claims.

Claims 21, 22, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over, USP 2,271,918 to Glowka ("Glowka"). Claims 21, 22, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 4,164,178 to Baumann et al. ("Baumann"). Claims 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glowka in view of USP 4,953,740 to Koda ("Koda"). These rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the new claims 34-43.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for her courtesy in granting the undersigned a personal interview on December 6, 2005. During that interview, the subject matter for new claim 34 was discussed.

Claims 34 and 42

Claims 34 and 42 are independent, and each recites (among other limitations) a support frame 32 fixedly secured to the top edge of the outer shell 22, the support frame 32 having a rear section that has a straight portion 90, with an opening 94 defined between the straight portion 90 and the top edge of the outer shell 22, and with the link rod 40 extending through the opening 94. See page 8, lines 24-28 of the specification and FIGS. 9-11 of the present application.

Applicant respectfully submits that Glowka, Baumann and Koda do not teach or suggest these limitations:

Glowka: The Examiner has asserted that element 6 in Glowka corresponds to the recited support frame. However, element 6 is "an inner rounded or beaded edge" that is part of an annular flange 5 that is attached below the top edge 4 of the outer shell 1. See column 1, line 53 to column 2, line 1 of Glowka. Thus, Glowka does not teach or suggest a support frame that is fixedly secured to the top edge of the outer shell and having a straight portion.

Baumann: The Examiner has asserted that element 70 in Baumann corresponds to the recited support frame. However, the element 70 does not have any portion that defines an opening between that portion and the top edge of the outer shell 80.

Koda: The Examiner has asserted that element 100 in Koda corresponds to the recited support frame. However, the element 100 is not fixedly secured to the top edge of the outer shell 2. Instead, the element 100 is a retainer ring 100 which is pivotably mounted to the outer shell 2. See column 8, lines 25-49 of Koda. In addition, this retainer ring 100 cannot be modified to fixedly secure it to the top edge of the outer shell 2 because this retainer ring 2 is specifically provided to hold the open end of a plastic bag 114. See FIG. 18 and column 8, lines 40-43 of Koda.

In light of the above reasons, claims 34 and 42, and claims 35-41 and 43-44 depending therefrom, are submitted to be allowable over Glowka, Baumann and Koda.

Claims 36 and 39

In addition, claims 36 and 39 are submitted to define additional patentable subject matter:

Claim 36 recites that the support frame has a top edge and a thickness, with at least one groove cut from the top edge and through the thickness of the support frame. In contrast, neither Glowka nor Baumann disclose any such groove, and the grooves 34 in Koda are not "cut from the top edge and through the thickness of the" retainer ring 100.

Claim 39 recites a rigid liner positioned in the interior and supported by the straight portion. In contrast, neither Glowka, Baumann nor Koda teach or suggest supporting a rigid liner at the straight portion.

Independent claim 42 also includes these limitations of claims 36 and 39, and is submitted to be allowable for these reasons as well.

Thus, pending claims 34-44 are submitted to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if there are informalities that can be resolved in a phone conversation, or if the Examiner has any amendments, ideas or suggestions for further advancing the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully Submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and its enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: December 29, 2005

By:


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